

#Rapture False Alarm"

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It was one of those long Thanksgiving holiday weekends and the weather was still warm enough in Houston for air-conditioning. The family gathered at sisters house to share Thanksgiving dinner and the togetherness most holidays bring.

As usual, everyone had prepared and brought a special dish. And most, as usual, had spilled a good portion in their automobile ~~xx~~ during the trip over.

The day was filled with football, small talk, and everyone agreed, the best Thanksgiving meal ever. After the games had ended and everyone had stuffed themselves to the limit, we all settled back and what followed was a very interesting discussion of the Bible.

After several hours of questions, answers, and passage reading, the topic of discussion turned to the rapture. Now the rapture is a subject about which, just about everybody has their own idea of what it is, and ~~where~~<sup>how</sup> and when ~~it~~<sup>it</sup> will take place.

This time however it was different. My brother-in-law had picked up a magazine which contained excerpts on the rapture from Hal Lindsey's book "The Late Great Planet Earth". He related what he could remember from the article and the discussion came to a close.

~~The next day was Friday and I reviewed, I thought, with nothing worth watching on T.V., I settled back in my easy chair~~

As everyone said their goodbyes, I asked to take the article with me to read over the holidays. Our discussion on the rapture had really peaked my curiosity.

The next day was Friday and a rainy day in Houston. With nothing worth watching on t.v., I settled back in my easy chair and began reading the article on the rapture.

Since I have always been fascinated by things like the Bermuda Triangle, prophecy in the Bible, Etc. , I was truly fascinated by the contents of this article.

In trying to simulate how the rapture will be, the author used the example of a man boarding a commercial airliner with his wife and children. The plane was filled to capacity and after getting airborne, the man decided to catch up on his sleep. He awoke later to find the plane almost empty. His wife and children were gone. The co-pilot was explaining over the intercom, the pilot had simply vanished and he was hard pressed to explain what was taking place. Those left in the plane were terrified.

The next day was Saturday and the article crossed my mind several times during the day. That afternoon, I came face to face with the realities of that article.

I had taken my wife and daughter to a small shopping center for our normal Saturday afternoon shopping. We had made our way thru the store and was waiting in the payout line. there were only two people in front of us, each with only a few items. I decided since they would only be a few minutes in line, to go wait in the car.

I had parked right in front of the store and I sat there watching my wife and daughter who were now paying for the items we had bought. I cranked the car knowing they would be right out. When I looked back in the store, they were nowhere to be seen.

I laughed to myself when the article was the first thing that crossed my mind. But after several minutes, it wasn't funny anymore. I panicked.

I began looking around and there didn't seem to be as many people in the store as before. The parking lot was empty. Cars everywhere but no people. Fifteen minutes had now passed and I was now at the point of stark terror. Had the rapture taken place? Had I been left behind?

Walking back into the store, I prayed with every step and just as I rounded the cosmetics counter, I saw my wife and daughter leaving the credit office of the store.

There is no way to express the relief I felt. That fifteen minutes had seemed like a lifetime. Not to mention the horrible feeling of being left behind at the rapture.

My wife explained, the check out lady had asked her to fill out an application for the stores new credit card, and she had gone to the credit office not thinking it would take long.

It was several days before I could chuckle at the days events. And now, when I relate the story to my friends, they chuckle too.

One thing however is for certain. After this experience, I for one do not want to be left behind should the rapture come in my lifetime.